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(RELEASE AT 10:30 P.M. EST)

WASHINGTON--THE U.S. ATTORNEY WHO NEGOTIATED THE RELEASE OF U2 PILOT FRANCIS GARY POWERS EXPRESSED DOUBT TONIGHT THAT SOVIET MASTER SPY RUDOLF ABEL WILL BE USED MUCH IN THE FUTURE BY RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

JAMES B. DONOVAN, WHO WAS ABEL'S LAWYER AT HIS ESPIONAGE TRIAL IN THIS COUNTRY, SAID THAT THE RUSSIANS MAY NOW BE SUSPICIOUS THAT ABEL AGREED TO BECOME A DOUBLE AGENT FOR THIS COUNTRY BEFORE HIS EXCHANGE FOR POWERS.

DONOVAN RECOUNTED HIS EXPERIENCES IN THE CASE IN AN INTERVIEW ON NBC TELEVISION (DAVID BRINKLEY'S JOURNAL.)

HE WAS ASKED IF ABEL MIGHT NOT BE IN POSITION TO GIVE THE SOVIETS VITAL ESPIONAGE DATA ABOUT THE UNITED STATES.

"FIRST OF ALL," DONOVAN REPLIED, "I'D LIKE TO POINT OUT THE MAN HAD BEEN IN CUSTODY OVER FOUR AND A HALF YEARS. AND MY BEST JUDGMENT WOULD BE THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE ONLY INFORMATION HE COULD COMMUNICATE IN MOSCOW WOULD BE SOME DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF LIFE IN THE PENITENTIARY IN ATLANTA."

HE SIMILARLY DISCOUNTED ABEL'S POSSIBLE ROLE IN EVALUATING INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OTHER SPIES IN THIS COUNTRY.

"MY OWN JUDGMENT WOULD BE THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE DONE," THE NEW YORK LAWYER SAID. "IF THE SITUATION WERE REVERSED...AND I HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PASSING UPON SUCH A MATTERN I'D BE MOST RELUCTANT EVER TO MAKE CLASSIFIED INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO SUCH A MAN, BECAUSE THERE WOULD ALWAYS REMAIN THE LINGERING SUSPICION...THAT HE HAD MADE SOME PRIVATE DEAL...TO BECOME A DOUBLE AGENT...

"TO USE SUCH A MAN IN A HIGHLY SENSITIVE AREA I THINK WOULD BE VERY DANGEROUS," DONOVAN SAID.

HE RELATED THAT DURING HIS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COMMUNISTS OVER THE EXCHANGE, HE HAD TO TALK HIS WAY PAST EAST GERMAN GUARDS AT THE BERLIN WALL EVERY DAY TO CROSS INTO THE RED ZONE.

DONOVAN ALSO SAID THAT BEFORE THE EXCHANGE OF POWERS FOR ABEL TOOK PLACE ON A BERLIN BRIDGE, A FORMER FLYING MATE OF POWERS MADE CERTAIN THE RUSSIANS WERE RELEASING THE RIGHT MAN.

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